

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:32p.m.

1.2. Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Monica Higgs, Councilmember Hope Love, Council President Shireka McCarthy, Mayor Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Kizzie Scott, Councilmember Donovan Bilbro and Councilmember James Wright, Jr.

Staff: LaShaya Johnson, Staff Assistant, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Myneca Ojo, City Manager, and Pearl Umoh, Public Engagement

1.3. Moment of Silence in honor of September 11

Council president called for a moment of silence.

1.4 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance- Reverend Julia Woodhouse, Mount Victory Baptist Church

Reverend Julia Woodhouse provided the invocation.

1.5 Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda

Motion by Donovan K Bilbro, second by Hope Love.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

1.6 Approval of Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 3, 2023

Motion to approve the Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 3, 2023

Motion by Donovan K Bilbro, second by James Wright Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Hope Love, Gerald Raynor Sr, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Abstain: Kizzie Scott

1.7. Approval of Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 10, 2023, Approve with Amendments to the Approval of the Agenda by removing Councilmember Higgs.

Motion by Gerald Raynor Sr, second by Hope Love.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Hope Love, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Abstain: Monica Higgs

2. PRESENTATION

2.1. None

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. None

4. REPORTS

4.1 Kelly Porter, Mayor Report:

- Mayor Porter stated he has two reports for July and August and the reports can be found in BoardDocs.
- Mayor Porter stated that he attended the two council meetings in July on 3rd and 10th.
- Mayor Porter stated that he had a meeting with Senator Benson on July 10, 2023.
- Mayor Porter stated he had a meeting with Herbert Allen regarding lobbying on July 17, 2023.
- Mayor Porter stated that he had a meeting with Delegate Jazz Lewis on July 24, 2023.
- Mayor Porter stated that he had a meeting with Proctor & Associates on July 30, 2023.
- Mayor Porter stated that he had provided a letter of support for Ella Lewis in July to attend the George Washington University Cancer Center to become a Community Health Worker in Seat Pleasant.
- Mayor Porter stated that he attended the Mayor Association Meeting on August 24, 2023.

- Mayor Porter attended the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, 2023.
- Mayor Porter stated that he attended the Swearing-In Ceremony for the Town Administrator, Marcus Jones at the Forest Heights Municipal Center on August 7, 2023.

4.2 Council President Report-Council President Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember-At-Large

- Council President McCarthy stated that her report is in Board Docs.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the two Council meetings in July.
- Council President McCarthy stated that the council approved three pieces of Legislation in the month of July.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended a proposed development meeting for 6500 Central Avenue on July 24, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the Ward II Community Fish Fry on Friday, July 14, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the PAL Splash Party on Saturday, July 15, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the Summer Financial Wellness Workshop on Saturday, July 22, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the Prince George's County Board of Education Swearing-In Ceremony on July 27, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that the council was on recess for the month of August.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the First Friday Concert on Friday, August 4, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the Movie Night on Friday, August 18, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended Ward I Community Ward Walk on August 23, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the Project Charge Recipient Training on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.
- Council President McCarthy stated that the Governmental Affairs and Technology Committee met on Monday, August 14, 2023, and the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, August 21, 2023.

4.3 Myneca Ojo, City Manager

- Ms. Ojo stated that the combined report for the months of July and August can be found in BoardDocs.
- Ms. Ojo stated that she met with elected officials Delegate Harrison, Delegate Lewis and Senator Benson and Congressman Glenn Ivey.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the community engagement with a series of seminars, tax relief and Ward Walks.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the Inaugural First Friday events are designed to connect the business owners and community development to meet with the customers they serve. The goal is to connect with the community and have business connections with the city. The events will continue until December 2023, and will resume in April 2024.
- Ms. Ojo stated that Seat Pleasant Police Department partnered with National Association of Local Governments to host National Night Out where they had featured dancing, food and with pride showed their services such as K-9 unit and the Fire Department allowed the children to see the Fire Trucks.
- Ms. Ojo stated had filled the two Senior Accountant positions, EJD, Public Works Manager and the newly created Facilities Maintenance Manager positions.
- Ms. Ojo stated that track to securing permits, and moved away from the project and re-hired the prior Project Manager to have the housing renovation continue.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the Senior and Social Services grant from the County with the assistances of Council President McCarthy.
- Councilmember Raynor inquired of the amount of the grant the city received.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the grant is in the amount of \$285,000.
- Councilmember Bilbro inquired if the band from First Friday has been paid?
- Ms. Ojo stated that the first week the band was not paid but has been paid for the subsequent events.
- Council President McCarthy stated that they use to receive an actual statement of the transaction from the Finance department, and it has changed. It was a good policy, and we need to return to allow transparency for the residents.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ron King stated that they have a problem with loitering and Speed Humps are needed in the different location on 71st Street at the higher

end. He has lost a neighbor, and cars are being hit on Drylog and 71st St. He had vehicles that were totaled and has been at the top of the hill.

- Ms. Katrina Robinson comment was submitted in writing and read for the record.
- Dana Lefrouy comment was submitted in writing and read for the record.
- Jamilay Muqtadir comment was submitted in writing and read for the record.
- Garry Jones stated that he has concerns with speeding, which is a safety concern. They cannot see the traffic during the day but at night they do not have the same problems. They installed a speed monitor device that does not work. The city needs to find the funds due to a safety issue. There was a safety issue with the house on the corner of 71st Avenue with trees leaning, and one tree had fallen. He called the Former Mayor, the next day the tree was down. The City Manager has come out for the summer walk, and he is hoping that the city can find a solution. They would like to see a mirror or speed humps.
- Ms. Ojo stated that they had requested a survey from the County, and she will follow up with Mr. Barber on the status of the mirror. The City Council has requested to be copied on the response.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Nomination and Vote for A Council President

- Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Wright to nominate Councilmember Raynor for Council President
- Motion by Monica Higgs, second by James Wright Jr.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carried

- Yes: Monica Higgs, Gerald Raynor Sr, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr
- No: Hope Love, Donovan K Bilbro
- Abstain: Kizzie Scott

7.2 Vote for A Councilmember as Council Vice President by Paper Ballot

- Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Scott to nominate Councilmember Wright as Council Vice President.
- Councilmember Wright accepted the nomination.
- Councilmember Wright was elected as Council Vice President

7.3 Seasonal Newsletter Recommendation

- Council President McCarthy stated that she will not support the cutting of services for residents. The newsletter should be coming monthly in advance, and in addition to the posting on social media. If the city needs to do an overall to determine the needs of the citizens.
- It was the consensus of the council that the newsletter should be provided to the residents monthly.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that the website is not being updated.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. Ward V Community Ward Walk, Wednesday, September 20, 2023, Seat Pleasant City Hall-6301 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00p.m.

8.2 Ward IV Community Yard Sale, Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 8:30am-2:30pm. A Yard Permit is required and can be obtained from the City's website. There will not be a fee for first two Yard sales per year. The event will be held at the corner of Joplin and G St, food trucks, DJ, giveaways. The rain date is September 30, 2023.

8.3 Regular Work Session, Monday, October 2, 2023, Hybrid, Zoom Webinar Meeting Link details are available on the city's website, 6301 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm

8.4 Public Session, Monday, October 9, 2023, Hybrid, Zoom Webinar Meeting Link details will be on the city's website. 6301 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD at 7:00pm.

8.5 Ward II Annual Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, October 14, 2023, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

Councilmember Love stated that she hopes everyone attends as it opens to all the wards. It has been brought to her attention by several residents that they have dementia in their home, and they do not know how to address it. She would be bringing people in to discuss and explain information on dementia, geriatric health, and mental health. It will start at 10:00am and be over by noon. The event will be held citywide. Please call City Hall to RSVP to ensure that there is enough food for the residents.

9. ADJOURN:

9.1 The meeting adjourned at 9:43pm

Submitted by,

Dashaun N. Lanham, MMC
City Clerk

APPROVED 10/09/2023